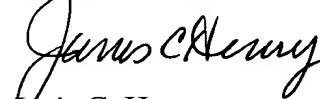


throughout the specification. The amendment is presented in order to simplify claim language and remove unnecessary claim language.

Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned in the event there are unresolved issues in connection with the issuance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below.

Date: October 12, 2000

Signed: Elizabeth M. McCarthy
Elizabeth M. McCarthy